



Regional Shelter

Response to City Council

Statement of Legislative Intent 65-4-A-1

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

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Mayor Mike McGinn
Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith

Homelessness: A Regional Problem

- Homelessness is a national, state and local problem that cannot be ended without significant resources and coordination at all levels of government.
- The City of Seattle invests more than \$30 million a year in homeless services, including \$6.7 million on emergency housing and shelter.
- 94% of facility-based shelter beds for single adults are located in the city of Seattle.

Background

As part of the 2011 Adopted Budget, the City Council's Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) 65-4-A-1 requested the Executive in collaboration with the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH), King County, United Way of King County, faith-based organizations, and service providers to:

1. Examine the supply and demand for shelter / interim housing (including car camping) and consider the possible location for new housing in geographic areas currently lacking availability of such housing.
2. Incorporate the work being done by an organization selected by the CEH to help faith-based communities in the review.

SLI Response: A Status Report

In response to the SLI, the Seattle Human Services Department's (HSD's) report provides information on:

- CEH Mid-Plan Review / Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness as the context for the regional response to shelter.
- King County emergency shelter inventory.
- Demand/unmet needs data.
- Regional response and new initiatives.

Specific recommendations on locations of new housing will be addressed after the completion of various initiatives by CEH and HSD through its Communities Supporting Safe and Stable Housing Initiative.

CEH Mid-Plan Review

CEH Ten-Year Plan and Mid-Plan Review priorities focus on increasing access to affordable, permanent housing, homelessness prevention efforts, and system change that will increase the efficiencies within the homeless service system.

In combination, these efforts are designed to reduce the pressure on the emergency shelter system by “closing the front door” to homelessness and “opening the back door” out of homelessness and into housing.

CEH Mid-Plan Review (continued)

For the vision for the second half of the Ten-Year Plan, CEH has identified five investment priorities:

1. Housing production.
2. Implementation of the King County Initiative to End Family Homelessness.
3. HEARTH/performance measures and Homeless Management Information (HMIS) implementation;
4. Implementation of the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness in King County.
5. Client care coordination.

CEH Mid-Plan Review (continued)

In addition to these priorities, three task forces have been created to explore specific needs related to:

- Homeless youth and young adults.
- Immigrants and refugees.
- Emergency shelter for single adults.

King County Emergency Shelter Inventory

(Year-Round, Facility-Based Beds/Units)

| | Families with Children | Youth & Young Adults | Single Adults | Total | Percent |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| City of Seattle | 133 units 526 beds | 50 beds | 1,509 beds | 1,692 units 2,085 beds | 90% of units 85 % of beds |
| South King County | 36 units 132 beds | 4 beds | 61 beds | 101 units 197 beds | 5% of units 8% of beds |
| East King County | 22 units 90 beds | 19 beds | 42 beds | 83 units 151 beds | 4% of units 6% of beds |
| North King County | 9 units <u>27 beds</u> | <u>5 beds</u> | <u>0 beds</u> | 14 units <u>32 beds</u> | 1% of units <u>1% of beds</u> |
| Total | 200 units 775 beds | 78 beds | 1,612 beds | 1,890 units 2,465 beds | 100% |

* Seattle beds/units includes shelter capacity of programs located in the city, not the number of beds funded by Seattle HSD.

Shelter Demand: Safe Harbors HMIS

- Safe Harbors' Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reports the number of people served during the 12-month period from October 1, 2009 to September 31, 2010 to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR).
- The AHAR is a report to Congress about the number of characteristics of people who use homeless residential services and their patterns of use.

| HUD AHAR 10/1/2009 to 09/31/2010 | Seattle Shelter Programs | King County Shelter Programs (excluding Seattle) |
|--|--|--|
| Shelter for Individuals | 8,361 persons sheltered (unduplicated) | 798 persons sheltered (unduplicated) |
| Shelter for Families with Children | 1,171 persons sheltered (unduplicated) | 865 persons sheltered (unduplicated) |

*2011 King County AHAR data will be submitted in January 2012.

Unmet Need: One Night Count

The One Night Count of People who Are Homeless is conducted each January to produce a snapshot of the total number of unsheltered individuals on the streets of King County.

- Coordinated by Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness in conjunction with the Committee to End Homelessness
- Street count of people without shelter and a count of those in emergency and in transitional housing programs.
- At a minimum, there were 2,442 people unsheltered in King County during January 2011 One Night Count.

Unmet Need: One Night Count (continued)

Persons living in vehicles

- Volunteers counted 767 people who were sleeping in vehicles in King County during the One Night Count.
- In many south and north King County communities, the proportion of those who were living in their cars represented more than half of the unsheltered people counted that night.

| Higher proportion | Lower proportion |
|--|--|
| 89% in White Center 80% in North King County 56% in Kent 55% in Renton 47% in Auburn | 29% in Seattle 28 % in Federal Way 21% in East King County |

Regional Response

The City of Seattle is one of the founding partners of the Committee to End Homelessness. CEH is leading the regional response to ending homelessness in King County.

- CEH Task Force on Sheltering Single Adults, co-chaired by the directors from City of Seattle, City of Bellevue, and City of Kent human services departments.
- CEH's Initiative to End Family Homelessness in King County and a new coordinated entry and assessment system for families.
- CEH-funded program to support faith-based organizations working to end homelessness.

Regional Response: Single Adults

- The CEH Mid-Plan Review recommended the creation of a countywide Single Adult Shelter Task Force.
- The Mid-Plan Review emphasized the importance of linking shelter more closely with housing placement and shelter diversion strategies and recommended that **new investments be targeted to creating pathways out of shelter** as the most critical component of success for this strategy.
- Stakeholders from 26 organizations represented on the task force (client/consumers, service providers, government, business, philanthropy).

Regional Response: Single Adults (continued)

Single Adult Shelter Task Force's work in 2011-2012:

- Data analysis of people staying in shelter.
- Inventory of emergency shelter programs; review of shelter characteristics and models.
- Review of the CEH Shelter Task Force Report and 2011 Mid-Plan Review strategies.
- Review of Winter Weather Shelter programs in Seattle, East and South King County.

Report/recommendations are expected by April 2012.

Regional Response: Single Adults (continued)

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- Inventory of emergency shelter programs; review of shelter characteristics and models.
- Review of the CEH Shelter Task Force Report and 2011 Mid-Plan Review strategies.
- Review of 2008 CEH Report on Preventing Homelessness in King County.
- Review of Winter Weather Shelter programs in Seattle, East and South King County.

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Regional Response: Families

There are five strategies at the core of the CEH Family Homelessness Initiative including:

1. Coordinated entry and uniform assessment: streamlined process and better matching of resources.
2. Prevention: increased emphasis and better targeting.
3. Rapid re-housing: quickly stabilize families in non-time limited housing.
4. Tailored supportive services: focus on housing stability rather than “housing readiness.”
5. Increased collaborations with mainstream systems.

Regional Response: Families (continued)

Coordinated Entry & Assessment (CEA) is a key component to the Initiative.

- Catholic Community Services selected as lead agency to implement the new system (through a competitive RFQ).
- Safe Harbors HMIS will operate as the data system for CEA.
- Uniform assessment: matching families with housing resources and services that best fit their circumstances.
- System-level data to inform planning and investments based on a more accurate understanding of the true scope of family homelessness in King County.

CEA start-up is under way. Operations begin April 2012.

Regional Response: Faith Communities

CEH awarded a contract to Catholic Community Services' FAITH program in 2010 to engage faith communities. FAITH is working to:

- Identify a countywide approach to engage faith communities.
- Reach out to communities that have not traditionally been engaged in the issue of ending homelessness.
- Provide one-on-one technical assistance or facilitate their connection with available resources/groups who have carried out similar activities.

Regional Response: Faith Communities (cont'd)

- Churches/faith communities are responding to community needs, including taking care of their congregation members and neighbors in need.
- Faith communities with the inherent leadership commitment and capacity to do this work are often already involved. The "low hanging fruit" has been picked long ago.
- The work to bring new church communities into a large commitment requires time, relationship building and training. Creating connections and being a presence in communities is critical in order to increase involvement.

Questions and Comments

